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FOR A GREATER UNIVERSITY.

The Regents of the University of Texas in their fifteenth biennial report to Governor Colquitt and the Legislature recommended for the support of the institution appropriations amounting to \$655,000 for 1913-14 and \$720,000 for 1914-15.

Every consideration of thrift urges that this request be met. To replace the five "box houses" now in use on the campus of the University with permanent structures which will meet the needs of Texas' youth for a decade, \$700,000 are absolutely necessary.

Our State University has passed that period when any intelligent person asks if it is "worth while." Yet in moments of economy we have dealt so niggardly with the training of our youth that the worthy men who have been building a great institution of popular learning at Austin have been sorely embarrassed, and we have brought reproach upon our State.

It is safe to estimate that in the increased efficiency of its citizenship the State receives from its University ten fold returns for every dollar appropriated to the institution. The work in geology, in medicine, in agricultural investigations enrich our Commonwealth every twelve months another ten fold more than is asked for its support.

Michigan has builded a great institution of learning; and young men from Texas and other sister states carry into Michigan more than half a million dollars each school year. Texas may build as Michigan has done. Liberality toward our State University is more than an investment which guarantees large returns. Business judgment and patriotism call for liberal support of the State University.—Plainview Herald, Plainview, Texas.

STUDENTS' LOAN FUND.

"Effort has been made in the past to create the prejudice against the University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College. Much that these institutions have needed has been withheld partly in satisfaction of this prejudice. Happily, this kind of demagoguery is passing away. Need for higher education is recognized by all people, and heretofore much of its cost, especially in the case of the University, has been borne out of revenues coming from the endowment funds. Some effort used to be made to show that the University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College were "rich men's" schools, but this is easily shown to be untrue. Out of a student body of nearly 2,000 now attending the University over 600 young men and women are working their way through this institution, earning their board by waiting on the tables at boarding houses and in other ways. And these young men and young women are honored by the student body and some of them stand at the head of their classes. An institution that affords this opportunity for worthy young man and young women and under such circumstances can not be said to be discriminating on account of wealth or social conditions. There are more farmers sons and daughters attending the University, I am told, than even attend the Agricultural and Mechanical College. For worthy young men and young women such as these I have referred to, a students' loan fund should be created from which they could borrow a small sum annually, according to regulations to be prescribed by law or rules of the board of regents to aid them in the completion of their education, they being required to pay it back with small interest from their first earnings after graduation. Such a fund would do untold good, as I conceive it, and will bring the University within the reach of all."—Governor Colquitt's Message.

RANKING OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Boston Transcript for January 22 contains the ranking of medical schools in the United States made by the council on medical education of the American Medical Association following the usual inspection. The medical department of the University of Texas is included among the twenty-two institutions to which is assigned the highest rank, A. In the same class with the University of Texas is Harvard, John Hopkins, Tulane, the University of Virginia, Washington University at St. Louis and seven State universities. Only three first-class medical institutions, according to the rating, are found in the South, Tulane, University of Virginia and the University of Texas.

Thirty-one medical colleges are given the grade of A, twenty-three of B, and twenty-seven C. The "C" Colleges are designated as being in "the almost hopeless class." A large number of Southern medical colleges are included in this class. In sneaking of the report of the American Medical Association, the Transcript remarks: "Because the association has made these investigations in years past and has the reputation of being painstaking and accurate in its inquiries, this classification has a finality which is not always accorded standardizations of this sort. The schools themselves are inclined to regard the ranking as authoritative and are usually eager to follow suggestions for improvement. The service, then, performed the association, is no mean one. Its criticisms are not destructive and have never been called biased. The aim is to lift an important kind of education—more important almost than any other kind—to the proper levels. If this purpose is carried out humanity will be the gainer. The medical association has no "ax to grind;" it is merely performing a task, disagreeable at best, in the hope that the doctors of the future will be better fitted and better trained than are the doctors of the past."

THE STATE'S GREATEST ASSET.

"The time has come in Texas when we should put our educational system upon a solid and enduring foundation. Money now expended in patching up the system will be money wasted; we must act upon the principles of broad-mindedness and look down the vista of years ahead and provide something that will be worthy of ourselves and to meet the needs of succeeding generations. A comprehensive and efficient system of public education is at once the most helpful and beneficial governmental charity ever undertaken. Words are inadequate to express the general good the system of training the youthful mind will be in preserving the rights and liberties of the people. When every mind can grasp and understand intelligently the issues he is called upon to settle by his ballot the power of the unscrupulous demagogue and political boss will disappear. Public intelligence is the State's greatest asset. The richness of the Texas climate, the productiveness of her soils, her great farms and herds and pastures and domain are insignificant compared to the benefits of a general diffusion of knowledge; with competent education her limitless resources can be developed, controlled and used to the infinite advantage of her people.

Let those of us charged with the duty of carrying out the pledges to which we are committed address ourselves to the subject with determination that no charge of neglect can be laid at our door by the present or future generations. The promises made are the culmination of a campaign of discussion in which those things were promised by the successful candidates for executive and legislative office. I am confident, therefore, of speedy action by the Legislature, and especially appeal to the lawmaking branch of the Government to cooperate with us in broadening and deepening the foundation of our educational system."—Governor Colquitt's Message.

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BRINGING HELP TO COUNTRY BOYS AND GIRLS.

To tell what has been done by people who have worked together to secure attractive and helpful school centers in our state and elsewhere, to help the organization of such school centers all through our rural districts and to conduct them in a manner helpful to both the school and the community,—in short, to help relate home and school work for greater usefulness and happiness,—these are some plans of the work of the Extension Department of the University of Texas.

The housekeeper, teacher, farmer, everybody in the State of Texas, may avail himself of the opportunities for self-improvement offered by the University of Texas, which institution he as a taxpayer helps to support. The benefits of this school exist not only for the resident student, but for the remotest citizens *at his own home*.

Among the problems directly related to the improvement and prosperity of the community, the state, the nation, are those of the country school and the farm home. Of vital importance in the solution of social, economic and educational problems, then, is the work of the housekeeper, the teacher, and the farmer. To these busy people the University of Texas will bring the experience and training of its field workers and its faculty of trained teachers by means of lectures, demonstrations, bulletins, and annual shortcourse schools, such as "Rural School Week" and the One-Week School of Home Economics.

To the ambitious teacher who has been studying the nation-wide movement for agricultural development and education, the country school offers a most interesting field of work. For all rural problems will have to be solved largely through the rural school. It is there that the trained teacher may by tactful and social leadership, through vitalized teaching of both children and adults, convert his school into a community center from which shall radiate the varied activities that will make country life as satisfactory as city life.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT UNIONS.

Recently J. H. Stoltzfus and a group of farmers in Southwest Texas decided that they would undertake in a small way to secure some of the benefits of co-operative credit that has been secured in other countries. A letter from Mr. Stoltzfus requesting assistance in drawing up a constitution and by-laws for such an organization was referred to the Chairman of the School of Business Training of the University of Texas who drew up a constitution and by-laws, after consultation with members of the Law Department in regard to the suitability and legality of the tentative provisions.

It is suggested that ten or more farmers may organize a credit union or association, each subscribing to its capital not less than ten dollars, payable in monthly installments of not less than ten per cent of the amount subscribed.

The foreign credit unions in France which are especially suggestive of the kind of the organization that has worked successfully in meeting the needs of agriculture, are federated into what is called the *Agricole*. There are local unions consisting of the small groups of farmers and these locals are federated in the central union, the capital of which is contributed by the local unions. In the early stages of these foreign unions the members have been liable without limit for the debts of the union. If a member of a local union wishes to borrow money for three months or any period under a year he applies for a loan to the officers of the local union where he may secure accommodation at a low rate of interest. In case the loan is secured from the central union it is approved and guaranteed by the local union.

The farmers are given an opportunity to secure money at reasonable rates and are paid interest on deposits just as they would be by the savings bank. The operations of the unions are made as simple as possible and no one, except the treasurer, is ordinarily paid for his services, the directors and the loan committee serving without pay.

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FILL-UPS

Dr. Milton W. Humphreys, the last surviving member of the first faculty of the University of Texas, has been selected as the Commencement orator for the 30th anniversary of our State University. Dr. Humphreys came to Texas in 1883 as the first professor in Latin and Greek of an institution which had for its Chairman of the Board of Regents, Dr. Ashbel Smith. Dr. Humphreys taught in the University for five years and then resigned to become professor of Greek in the University of Virginia, from which institution he has just been retired on a pension.

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THE BIBLE IN THE UNIVERSITY.

Thomas W. Currie, secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of the University of Texas, reports that out of an actual attendance of 2,000 students at Austin, 1,243 are now regular members of Bible classes. Of these 869 are men and 374 are women. Two years ago when the statistics of Bible students in all the colleges of the United States were published, only one college in the country had more actual students of the Bible than the University of Texas. Mr. Currie further reports that 498 Students of the university hold paid memberships in the Young Men's Christian Association. These men have all the privileges of the Young Men's Christian Association building. There are 438 members of the Young Women's Christian Association. The young women do not have the advantages of a building of their own.

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Governor Colquitt's special message on education reaches the high water mark of constructive educational statesmanship. If his recommendations could be written into law, the entire educational system, from the common schools to the University would increase in efficiency until every Texan would be proud of our schools. The Governor's most noteworthy recommendation is his proposal of a special tax for the support of the University, the A. & M. College, the Girls Industrial College, the four Normals and the Normal for negroes at Prairie View.